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THE SALEM STATESMAN/JOURNAL (OR)
19 May 1981

Credit cards of missing man mailed to firm

By KRISTINE ROSEMARY

Statesman-Journal Correspondent

CORVALLIS — Credit cards belonging to Glen Johnston, 41-year-old Corvallis real estate agent missing since April 13, have been mailed to Johnston's employer, reopening police and FBI inquiries into the man's disappearance.

The credit cards were mailed last week to Lee Grant Real Estate, where Johnston worked for the past five years, said an FBI spokesman in Portland. They were mailed in a plain envelope, postmarked Sacramento, which contained no note.

Corvallis police turned over the credit cards to the FBI for "logical investigation," FBI agent Bill Williams said.

The case has puzzled officials since a note, containing Johnston's driving license, was mailed April 17 from San Jose, Calif., claiming that Johnston had been killed.

The note also threatened death to all CIA agents but FBI agents say Johnston, a navy lieutenant during the Vietnam war, had no apparent connection with the CIA.

Johnston's Mercedes-Benz was found abandoned April 28 in a Eureka, Calif., motel parking lot.

"He's apparently dropped off the face of the earth, but we keep on getting these dribs and drabs of life," Williams said.

The FBI has no way of tracing purchases made with the credit cards until company billings are completed within the next few weeks. He said that action probably will be left to Corvallis police.

"Our role is limited in the absence of any clear interstate violation," he said. Williams added that the FBI has "no way of knowing whether this is a hoax or a legitimate kidnapping, but we would not speculate either way" out of consideration for Johnston's family.

"The family is agonizing really bad over this," he said. Co-workers said Johnston was last seen leaving his Corvallis office April 13 to show property in Agate Beach to a prospective client.